



























































YOU SEE, 40 YEARS
AGO TONIGHT, SHE WAS
TO HAVE BEEN MARRIED!
HER FIANCE DIDN'T SHOW
UP! SHE WENT OUT OF HER
MIND, AND EVERY YEAR
SHE HAS THESE SUPPERS!
WE LET HER GO, AND
USUALLY MANAGE TO INTERCEPT ALL THE INVITATIONS!
IT SEEMS WE MISSED
YOURS!









































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ALIBI

RED BRONSON glared defiantly at calmly persistent Detective Sergeant Burke under the yellow lights of the captain's office in the dingy Watertown police station.

"What if I did quarrel with Old Man Schultz before I lit outs here a year ago," he demanded. "A lotta guys squabbled wit' that old burn. In fact I bet he's tried to beat every kid west of the tracks one time or another." Detective Burke nodded gravely.

"A lot of kids west of the tracks gave him reason to get after 'em," he said, "what with swipin' stuff out of his truck garden and tossin' rocks at his wagon when he was peddlin'. There's some fine young hood-lums west of the tracks."

"Well that ain't sayin' I know anything about who killed him this afternoon," retorted Bronson. "Been away for over a year—left right after I had that fight wit' him, in fact—an' I ain't been back in the meantime, and I ain't heard a word from nebody in this burg. Now just because I scrapped with him a year ago you guya gotta pick me up the minute I get back into town and try to pin a murder on me."

"You claim you was in Chicago for a year," continued Detective Burke, "you didn't by any chance spend part of that time in jail, did you? We had inquiries here about a red-headed kid named William Bronson who was arrested there for stickups and burglaries. Would that be you?"

"What if it was? I done my time," growled Bronson. "That don't prove I know anything about this killin."

"Well you beat up Old Man Schultz pretty bad around the head before you run away a year ago," said the detective, "but he wouldn't swear out a warrant, so we never tried to bring you back. But now you come home by yourself, and the same day you get here he's found dead—skull smashed. Furthermore, he was robbed of his watch." Burke eyed the suspect narrowly.

"That's a lie!" flared Bronson. "He never had no watch, he had—" He bit his words short in consternation. Burke grinned.

"Oh, so you looked to see, did you?" he chuckled "Well, if he had no watch, you took his cash, anyhow. One of the coins we found on you was a pocket-piece he always carried. His wife identified it." Again the detective watched Bronson narrowly.

"That's another lie!" yelled Bronson angrily. "I never took a cent; some money fell on the ground when—" He checked himself again. "I never took nothin." he concluded sullenly.

"C'mon, cut with it!" ordered Burke sharply. "You were there when he got killed; you just admitted it. If you didn't kill him, who did?" A gleam came into Bronson's eyes. "Okay, I'll talk," he said suddenly, as though inspired with an idea. "I just come down the tracks from the junction where I unloaded from the freight, and who do I run into alongside that big truck garden on the edge of town but Old Man Schultz.

"I always says let bygones be bygones, so I walks right up to him. When he seen me he starts like he was gonna crown me wit the club he was carryin'—"

"This club?" cut in Detective Burke, lifting a heavy, bloodstained stick from its paper wrappings. Bronson started sharply at the sight of it.

"That's the one," he con-

tinued rapidly. "He starts after me, but I steps back and calls out to him that I was turnin' over a new leaf and wanted to be friends. Then he chases me

over a new leaf and wanted to be friends. Then he chases me about a half block across the fields—me a-dodgin' right an' left, and him comin' on awful fast for an old feller, an' swearin' lika a pirate.

"Just as he almost ketches

me, up from behind a clump of brush jumps two tough lookin' eggs that had a sackful of his vegetables they had been swip-in'. I never sean them before, but they was the ugliest mugs I aver set ayes on. Off he goes after them—me gapin' in my tracks, you understand—and when they are about a block sway, the two birds turn on him quick-like, and the biggest one grabe tha stick out of Old Man Schultz's hand and busts him

"If you saw all this, why didn't you tell the cops?" demanded Detective Burke.

"I was gonna," explained

over the head four or five times,

an' he falls down an' they beats

Bronson smoothly, "but I thinks what's the use, they'd just grab me for investigation and make a lot of troubla. An' if I kep' my mout' shut Old Man Schultr'd been found anyways. Of course I shoulda' came to the cops, but you know how it is when a

men's tryin' to keep outs trou-

bia."

Detective Burke nodded and looked at the suspect reflectivaly.
"Rather queer Old Man

Schultz should have been carrying this big club when he usually walked with this cane," Burke held up a light walking stick. "In fact, this was found near his body." Bronson stared sharply.

"Sure he had that," he assented a trifle too readily, "but he had the big club, too—I suppose to chase guys wit that was swipin out his garden. Anyhow he chased me an them other guys wit the club."

"When he chased you, did he

sic his dog on you, too?" de-

manded the detective suddenly.

"Dog? I never seen no—Oh, sure, I remember now," assented Bronson. "They was a dog there, but he kept away from me. I dodged so fast I guess he

"Didn't he haul the dog with him when he was running after you?"

was about as scairt as I was."

"Well, he did sorta, but the dog broke away and run off."

"What about the pocketpiece and other money you took from Schultz after he was killed?" continued Burke.

"I never went near him after he was killed; that money fell outs his pocket when he was jumpin' around after me so fast, an' I picked it up while he was chasin' them two other guys that croaked him."

"Swell story, Bronson-best I ever heard."

"Every word of it's true,"

snapped Bronson defiantly.
"You got nuttin' on me, copper.
I'll be outa here thumbin' my
nose at the bunch of you."

Detective Burke opened the office door.

"Hey, sergeant," he called.

"Tell them reporters to coma

in; I got the guy that killed Old Man Schultz. Hopped off a freight train. Walked up to him and struck him down with a big club in cold blood—all for revenge."

"You're a liar, copper!" yelled Bronson, bounding to his
feet. Then in a moment he said
slowly, "How did you dope that
out—did someone see me?"

"Nobody saw you, but you

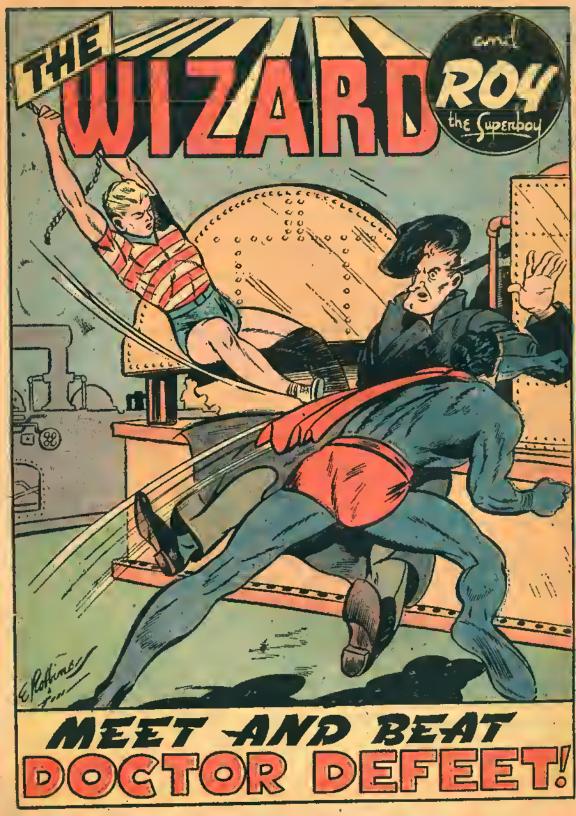
tipped me yourself when you said Schultz chased you."
"What's wrong wit' that?

He's chased every kid west of the tracks," argued Bronson.

"Not this afternoon, though," returned Burke as the reporters filed in. "Old Man Schultz couldn't walk a yard without his cane and dog, he was stone blind ever since that beating you gave him a year ago. If you hadn't been in such a hur-

. ry to club him you might heva

found it out."























































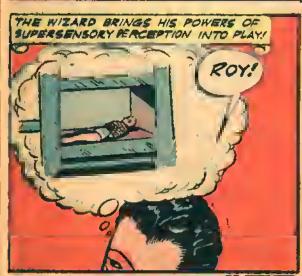




























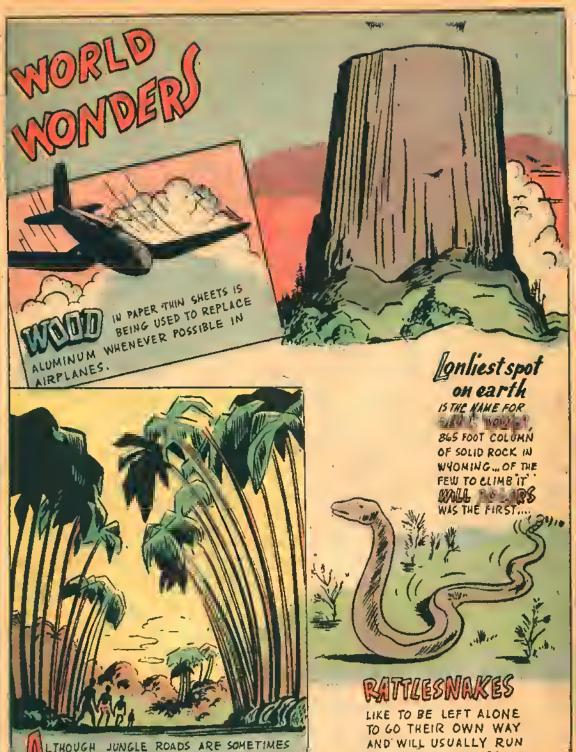












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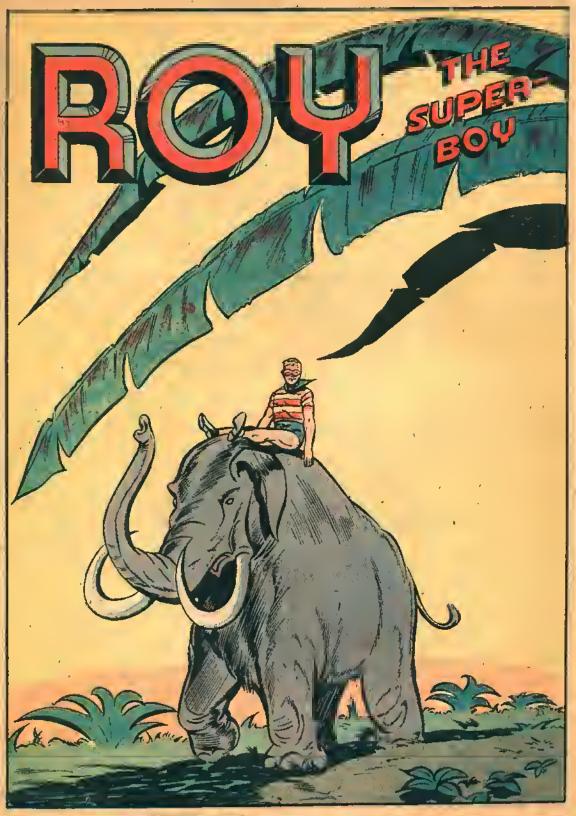
40 MEN TO WALK ABREAST THE NATIVES

AWAY UPON THE APPROACH

- Goss

OF PEUPLE

A SUBSINES A STED













































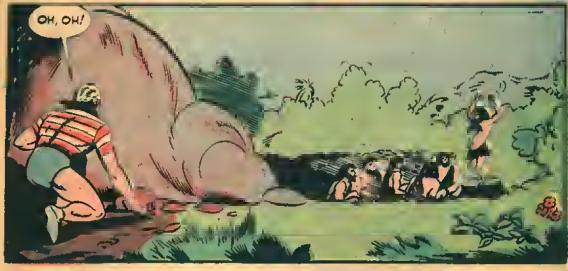




































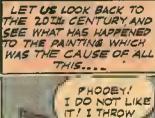














GOLLY! IT LOOKS LIKE ROY IS STUCK IN PRE-HISTORIC TIMES - BUT WAIT - WHAT'S THIS ---









AND SO ROY WAS RESCUED FROM HIS WILDEST ADVENTURE! ANYWAY THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD US!!